OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Ms. Carol Bernthal
Superintendent
NOAA/Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
115 East Railroad Ave., Suite 301
Port Angeles, Washington 98362-2925

Dear Ms. Bernthal:

During the September 24, 2004 meeting of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council), the Advisory Council received a briefing on the results of research on the deepwater corals and sponges carried out by the Sanctuary and the NOAA ship McArthur II in June. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Advisory Council passed a resolution, with two abstentions, supporting continuing this important work and specifically supporting the request for funding that the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is making to the NOAA Ocean Exploration Office for ROV/submersible time. The Advisory Council passes the resolution on to you and requests that you included in the grant application package to the NOAA. Specifically, the resolution reads:

"The Advisory Council strongly supports inventory of deepwater resources, including corals and sponges, to collect baseline information to help direct future research, management and protection of sanctuary resources. The Advisory Council supports the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary proposal for funding from the NOAA Ocean Exploration Office for ROV/submersible equipment necessary for research to be carried out on the already committed research schedule and plan for NOAA research vessel McArthur II."

The Advisory Council consists of twenty (20) members from non-governmental interests, governmental organizations and Indian Tribes. The membership on the Advisory Council is as follows: Non-governmental; Citizen-at-Large, Education, Research, Conservation/Environmental, Chamber of Commerce/Tourism/Recreation, Marine Business/Ports/Industry, and Commercial Fishing. The Governmental positions are: U.S. Department of Interior-Olympic National Park, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Navy, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Department of Fish And Wildlife and Local Government. The Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation are also members of the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council is committed to active support of the National Marine Sanctuary System in their mission to preserve and protect the unique resources found within the established national marine sanctuaries. The OCNMS Advisory Council is supportive of education, resource protection and research activities and commercial endeavors that are compatible with the primary objectives as stated above. The Advisory also acknowledges that policy actions must consider the impact on and uphold the treaty-protected rights of Indian Tribes.

Dr. Terrie Klinger, Chair Bob Bohlman, Vice-Chair Michelle McConnell, Sec.

Representation

Citizen-At-Large Environmental/Conservation Business/Tourism Commercial Fishing Maritime Industry Education Research Hoh Tribe Makah Tribe Quileute Tribe **Ouinault Indian Nation** Local Government Washington State: Dept. of Ecology Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Dept. of Natural Resources Olympic National Park U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Coast Guard U.S. Navy

Artwork: David Sones

Sincerely yours,

Terrie Klinger, Chair

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

115 East Railroad Ave. Suite 301 •Port Angeles, WA 98362•360/457-6622

•email: olympiccoast@noaa.gov